

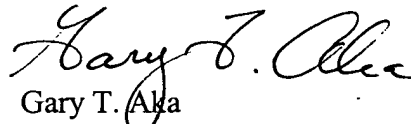
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Consideration of the present application, as amended preliminarily, is respectfully requested.

For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants point out the similarity of language of presently presented claims 12-14 to claims 18, 21, and 24 respectively of Applicants' U.S. Patent No. 6,041,010. To remove the rejection of these or any other claims for non-statutory double patenting, the applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer under 37 C.F.R. §1.321(c) upon a Notice of Allowance if so requested by the Examiner.

Applicants believe all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, the undersigned attorney would appreciate receiving a telephone call at (408) 446-7687 to discuss the matter.

Respectfully submitted,


Gary T. Alka
Reg. No. 29,038

RITTER, LANG & KAPLAN LLP
12930 Saratoga Ave., Suite D1
Saratoga, CA 95070
Tel: 408-446-8690
Fax: 408-446-8691